



Friends of the Mortuary Industry:

As the year winds down, it is a fitting time to reflect on the many families we have served in the past year. This is also a time of year when we relish sharing a variety of traditions with family and friends – that also includes reveling in the traditions and principles we share in the death care industry.


Throughout the year, but especially during the holidays, families who are suffering a loss need to understand they are not invisible and not alone, and it is you, our mortuary professionals, who consistently do a tremendous job throughout the year promoting that message within your communities. You have many added responsibilities this time of year and despite these challenges, you go above and beyond to make the holidays brighter for those in your community.

High-quality professional standards are administered by the dedicated mortuary professionals that include 1,041 morticians *and* funeral directors; 495 crematory operators *and* mortuary transporters; 78 apprentices throughout the State of Maryland; and Board members *and* Board staff who work each and every day to model best practices that ensure consumer protections.

It is your unwavering commitment to your families that we take this time to acknowledge your dedication and compassion toward the families you support, through your specialized profession, during their most difficult time. *"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence then, is not an act, but a habit."* ~ Aristotle

Lastly, as diverse as our holiday traditions are, they often express a common theme of gratitude for the gifts and opportunities that we have been given. Gratitude is what motivates us all to give of our time, talents, and service to make a difference in the lives of others in their time of sorrow. We cannot say enough about the compassion and noble service of industry professionals who have made supporting the communities they serve a priority and for this, we 'thank you.'

Wishing you a joyous *and* safe holiday season *and* prosperous New Year.


D. Lynn Newman
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